

**Listing of the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Added text is indicated by underlining, and deleted text is indicated by ~~striketrough~~. Changes are indicated by a vertical bar in the margin.

1. (original) A method of controlling access to a language learning computer facility, the method comprising:

    permitting a user to interact with the computer facility through a computer node of a network, the user interaction comprising language learning responses submitted to the computer facility through the computer node;

    performing a user authentication process to determine if the permitted user interaction is authorized; and

    determining whether the permitted user interaction should be continued, if the user is determined not to be authorized;

    wherein the user authentication process is performed with user authentication information that is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and also with user authentication information extracted from the user's language learning responses.

2. (original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the permitted user interaction includes receiving user speaker verification information that is obtained from the user in response to language learning requests from the computer facility and further including:

    analyzing the speaker verification information to verify that the user is a recognized speaker.

3. (currently amended) A method as defined in claim 2 39, wherein ~~the determination of whether user interaction should be continued is performed a~~

~~predetermined time after the user begins interaction with the computer facility, and the predetermined time comprises a predetermined number of computer facility requests.~~

4. (currently amended) A method of controlling access to a language learning computer facility, the method comprising:

permitting a user to interact with the computer facility through a computer node of a network, the user interaction comprising language learning responses submitted to the computer facility through the computer node;

performing a user authentication process to determine if the permitted user interaction is authorized; and

determining whether the permitted user interaction should be continued, if the user is determined not to be authorized;

wherein the user authentication process is performed with user authentication information that is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and also with user authentication information extracted from the user's language learning responses;

wherein the permitted user interaction includes receiving user speaker verification information that is obtained from the user in response to language learning requests from the computer facility and further including:

analyzing the speaker verification information to verify that the user is a recognized speaker; and

~~A method as defined in claim 2,~~ wherein the system permits continued access in response to a match between the user speaker verification information and reference speaker verification information for the user in a database of the computer facility.

5. (original) A method as defined in claim 4, wherein the user authentication process comprises verifying that speaker verification information of the user is

sufficiently similar to reference speaker verification information from an identified user in the database so as to conclude that the user is the identified user.

6. (original) A method as defined in claim 5, wherein the user speaker verification information is obtained from the user as a result of speaking a predetermined phrase at the computer node to thereby provide a text dependent verification.

7. (currently amended) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the user authentication information comprises student instruction progress information obtained during the language learning user interaction, the progress information relating to a lesson level of the permitted user interaction as compared with prior lesson level for the user.

8. (currently amended) A method of controlling access to a language learning computer facility, the method comprising:  
permitting a user to interact with the computer facility through a computer node of a network, the user interaction comprising language learning responses submitted to the computer facility through the computer node;  
performing a user authentication process to determine if the permitted user interaction is authorized; and  
determining whether the permitted user interaction should be continued, if the user is determined not to be authorized;  
wherein the user authentication process is performed with user authentication information that is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and also with user authentication information extracted from the user's language learning responses;  
wherein the user authentication information comprises student instruction progress information obtained during the language learning user interaction;

~~A method as defined in claim 7~~, the method further including analyzing the student instruction progress information to verify that the user is a student who has made progress through an instruction plan of the computer facility and to determine if one or more user inputs that identify the user's progress through the instruction plan indicate that the user's progress is sufficiently different from the student's progress to conclude that the user is someone other than the student, and therefore is not authorized.

9. (currently amended) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the user authentication information comprises student instruction performance information obtained from the user during the language learning user interaction, relating to results of language learning responses of the permitted user interaction as compared with results of prior language learning responses for the user.

10. (currently amended) A method of controlling access to a language learning computer facility, the method comprising:

permitting a user to interact with the computer facility through a computer node of a network, the user interaction comprising language learning responses submitted to the computer facility through the computer node;

performing a user authentication process to determine if the permitted user interaction is authorized; and

determining whether the permitted user interaction should be continued, if the user is determined not to be authorized;

wherein the user authentication process is performed with user authentication information that is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and also with user authentication information extracted from the user's language learning responses;

wherein the user authentication information comprises student instruction performance information obtained from the user during the language learning user interaction;

~~A method as defined in claim 9,~~ the method further including analyzing the student instruction performance information to determine if the user is identified as a student who has recorded performance data while making progress through an instruction plan of the computer facility, and to determine if one or more user inputs that identify the user's performance through the instruction plan indicate that the user's performance is sufficiently different from the student's performance to conclude that the user is someone other than the student, and therefore is not authorized.

11. (currently amended) A method of controlling access to a language learning computer facility, a method comprising:

permitting a user to interact with the computer facility through a computer node of a network, the user interaction comprising language learning responses submitted to the computer facility through the computer node;

performing a user authentication process to determine if the permitted user interaction is authorized; and

determining whether the permitted user interaction should be continued, if the user is determined not to be authorized;

wherein the user authentication process is performed with user authentication information that is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and also with user authentication information extracted from the user's language learning responses;

wherein the user authentication information comprises student instruction performance information obtained from the user during the language learning user interaction;

~~A method as defined in claim 9~~, wherein the computer facility provides spoken language learning instruction during the user interaction and the performance information comprises user speech input information obtained from the user during the user interaction with the computer facility.

12. (original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the user authentication process comprises:

requesting a user identification code input;

receiving identification code generated by a code generator that is attached to a microphone that communicates with the user computer and through which the user provides speech input.

13. (original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein performing the user authentication process comprises receiving multiple types of authentication information and determining user authorization based on criteria relating to information that includes at least two from among: user speaker verification information, user progress information, user performance information, or a user identification code.

14. (currently amended) A method of controlling access to a language learning computer facility, the method comprising:

permitting a user to interact with the computer facility through a computer node of a network, the user interaction comprising language learning responses submitted to the computer facility through the computer node;

performing a user authentication process to determine if the permitted user interaction is authorized; and

determining whether the permitted user interaction should be continued, if the user is determined not to be authorized;

wherein the user authentication process is performed with user authentication information that is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and also with user authentication information extracted from the user's language learning responses;

wherein performing the user authentication process comprises receiving multiple types of authentication information and determining user authorization based on criteria relating to information that includes at least two from among: user speaker verification information, user progress information, user performance information, or a user identification code;

~~A method as defined in claim 13,~~ wherein the received authentication information is analyzed and compared to corresponding information from a student who has previously provided voiceprint information, and made progress through an instruction plan of the computer facility, thereby generating performance data collected by the system while the student was making progress through an instruction plan of the computer facility; wherein the user is determined to be authorized if more than one of the user inputs comprising user voiceprint information, user progress, and user performance are sufficiently similar to the student's previously provided user inputs to conclude that the user is the student.

15. (currently amended) A method of controlling access to a language learning computer facility, the method comprising:

permitting a user to interact with the computer facility through a computer node of a network, the user interaction comprising language learning responses submitted to the computer facility through the computer node;

performing a user authentication process to determine if the permitted user interaction is authorized; and

determining whether the permitted user interaction should be continued, if the user is determined not to be authorized;

wherein the user authentication process is performed with user authentication information that is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and also with user authentication information extracted from the user's language learning responses;

~~A method as defined in claim 1,~~ wherein the user computer node comprises a client of the computer facility, the user responses to language learning requests from the computer facility comprise user speech input, and the user speaker verification information received by the computer facility comprises parametric data processed at the user computer node from the speech input.

16-23. (canceled)

24. (original) A computer apparatus at a server node of a network, controlling access to a computer facility of the network, the computer apparatus comprising:

a network communication interface that permits communication with a user at a client node of the network; and

a Speaker Recognition processor that permits the user to interact with the computer facility through a computer node of the network, wherein the user interaction comprises language learning responses submitted to the computer facility through the computer node, further that the Speaker Recognition processor performs a user authentication process to determine if the permitted user interaction is authorized and determines whether the permitted user interaction should be continued, if the user is determined not to be authorized; and wherein the user authentication process is performed with user authentication information that is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and also with user authentication information that is extracted from the user's language learning responses.



25. (original) A computer apparatus as defined in claim 24, wherein the Speaker Recognition processor receives speaker verification information from the user in response to language learning requests and analyzes the speaker verification information to verify that the user is a recognized speaker.

26. (currently amended) A computer apparatus as defined in claim 25 ~~40~~, wherein the Speaker Recognition processor performs the determination of whether user interaction should be continued at a predetermined time after the user begins interaction with the computer facility, and wherein the predetermined time comprises a predetermined number of computer facility requests.

27. (currently amended) A computer apparatus at a server node of a network, controlling access to a computer facility of the network, the computer apparatus comprising:

a network communication interface that permits communication with a user at a client node of the network; and

a Speaker Recognition processor that permits the user to interact with the computer facility through a computer node of the network, wherein the user interaction comprises language learning responses submitted to the computer facility through the computer node, further that the Speaker Recognition processor performs a user authentication process to determine if the permitted user interaction is authorized and determines whether the permitted user interaction should be continued, if the user is determined not to be authorized; and wherein the user authentication process is performed with user authentication information that is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and also with user authentication information that is extracted from the user's language learning responses;

wherein the Speaker Recognition processor receives speaker verification information from the user in response to language learning requests and analyzes the speaker verification information to verify that the user is a recognized speaker;

~~A computer apparatus as defined in claim 25,~~ wherein the system permits continued access in response to a match between the user speaker verification information and reference speaker verification information for the user in a database of the computer facility.

28. (original) A computer apparatus as defined in claim 27, wherein the user authentication process comprises verifying that speaker verification information of the user is sufficiently similar to reference speaker verification information from an identified user in the database so as to conclude that the user is the identified user.

29. (original) A computer apparatus as defined in claim 28, wherein the user speaker verification information is obtained from the user as a result of speaking a predetermined phrase at the computer node to thereby provide a text dependent verification.

30. (currently amended) A computer apparatus as defined in claim 24, wherein the user authentication information comprises student instruction progress information obtained during the language learning user interaction, the progress information relating to a lesson level of the permitted user interaction as compared with prior lesson level for the user.

31. (currently amended) A computer apparatus at a server node of a network, controlling access to a computer facility of the network, the computer apparatus comprising:

a network communication interface that permits communication with a user at a client node of the network; and

a Speaker Recognition processor that permits the user to interact with the computer facility through a computer node of the network, wherein the user interaction comprises language learning responses submitted to the computer facility through the computer node, further that the Speaker Recognition processor performs a user authentication process to determine if the permitted user interaction is authorized and determines whether the permitted user interaction should be continued, if the user is determined not to be authorized; and wherein the user authentication process is performed with user authentication information that is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and also with user authentication information that is extracted from the user's language learning responses;

wherein the user authentication information comprises student instruction progress information obtained during the language learning user interaction;

~~A computer apparatus as defined in claim 30,~~ wherein the Speaker Recognition processor analyzes the student instruction progress information to verify that the user is a student who has made progress through an instruction plan of the computer facility and to determine if one or more user inputs that identify the user's progress through the instruction plan indicate that the user's progress is sufficiently different from the student's progress to conclude that the user is someone other than the student, and therefore is not authorized.

32. (currently amended) A computer apparatus as defined in claim 24, wherein the user authentication information comprises student instruction performance information obtained from the user during the language learning user interaction, relating to results of language learning responses of the permitted user interaction as compared with results of prior language learning responses for the user.

33. (currently amended) A computer apparatus at a server node of a network, controlling access to a computer facility of the network, the computer apparatus comprising:

a network communication interface that permits communication with a user at a client node of the network; and

a Speaker Recognition processor that permits the user to interact with the computer facility through a computer node of the network, wherein the user interaction comprises language learning responses submitted to the computer facility through the computer node, further that the Speaker Recognition processor performs a user authentication process to determine if the permitted user interaction is authorized and determines whether the permitted user interaction should be continued, if the user is determined not to be authorized; and wherein the user authentication process is performed with user authentication information that is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and also with user authentication information that is extracted from the user's language learning responses;

wherein the user authentication information comprises student instruction performance information obtained from the user during the language learning user interaction;

~~A computer apparatus as defined in claim 32,~~ wherein the Speaker Recognition processor analyzes the student instruction performance information to determine if the user is identified as a student who has recorded performance data while making progress through an instruction plan of the computer facility, and to determine if one or more user inputs that identify the user's performance through the instruction plan indicate that the user's performance is sufficiently different from the student's performance to conclude that the user is someone other than the student, and therefore is not authorized.

34. (currently amended) A computer apparatus at a server node of a network, controlling access to a computer facility of the network, the computer apparatus comprising:

a network communication interface that permits communication with a user at a client node of the network; and

a Speaker Recognition processor that permits the user to interact with the computer facility through a computer node of the network, wherein the user interaction comprises language learning responses submitted to the computer facility through the computer node, further that the Speaker Recognition processor performs a user authentication process to determine if the permitted user interaction is authorized and determines whether the permitted user interaction should be continued, if the user is determined not to be authorized; and wherein the user authentication process is performed with user authentication information that is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and also with user authentication information that is extracted from the user's language learning responses;

wherein the user authentication information comprises student instruction performance information obtained from the user during the language learning user interaction;

~~A computer apparatus as defined in claim 32,~~ wherein the computer facility provides spoken language learning instruction during the user interaction and the performance information comprises user speech input information obtained from the user during the user interaction with the computer facility.

35. (original) A computer apparatus as defined in claim 24, wherein the Speaker Recognition processor performs the user authentication process by requesting a user identification code input and receiving identification code generated by a code generator that is attached to a microphone that communicates with the user computer and through which the user provides speech input.

36. (original) A computer apparatus as defined in claim 24, wherein the Speaker Recognition processor performs the user authentication process by receiving multiple types of authentication information and determining user authorization based on criteria relating to information that includes at least two from among: user speaker verification information, user progress information, user performance information, or a user identification code.

37. (currently amended) A computer apparatus at a server node of a network, controlling access to a computer facility of the network, the computer apparatus comprising:

a network communication interface that permits communication with a user at a client node of the network; and

a Speaker Recognition processor that permits the user to interact with the computer facility through a computer node of the network, wherein the user interaction comprises language learning responses submitted to the computer facility through the computer node, further that the Speaker Recognition processor performs a user authentication process to determine if the permitted user interaction is authorized and determines whether the permitted user interaction should be continued, if the user is determined not to be authorized; and wherein the user authentication process is performed with user authentication information that is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and also with user authentication information that is extracted from the user's language learning responses;

wherein the Speaker Recognition processor performs the user authentication process by receiving multiple types of authentication information and determining user authorization based on criteria relating to information that includes at least two from among: user speaker verification information, user progress information, user performance information, or a user identification code;

~~A computer apparatus as defined in claim 36~~, wherein the received authentication information is analyzed and compared to corresponding information from a student who has previously provided voiceprint information, and made progress through an instruction plan of the computer facility, thereby generating performance data collected by the system while the student was making progress through an instruction plan of the computer facility; wherein the user is determined to be authorized if more than one of the user inputs comprising user voiceprint information, user progress, and user performance are sufficiently similar to the student's previously provided user inputs to conclude that the user is the student.

38. (currently amended) A computer apparatus at a server node of a network, controlling access to a computer facility of the network, the computer apparatus comprising:

a network communication interface that permits communication with a user at a client node of the network; and

a Speaker Recognition processor that permits the user to interact with the computer facility through a computer node of the network, wherein the user interaction comprises language learning responses submitted to the computer facility through the computer node, further that the Speaker Recognition processor performs a user authentication process to determine if the permitted user interaction is authorized and determines whether the permitted user interaction should be continued, if the user is determined not to be authorized; and wherein the user authentication process is performed with user authentication information that is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and also with user authentication information that is extracted from the user's language learning responses;

wherein the Speaker Recognition processor receives speaker verification information from the user in response to language learning requests and analyzes the speaker verification information to verify that the user is a recognized speaker;

~~A computer apparatus as defined in claim 25~~, wherein the user computer node comprises a client of the computer facility, the user responses to language learning requests from the computer facility comprise user speech input, and the user speaker verification information received by the computer facility comprises parametric data processed at the user computer node from the speech input.

39. (new) A method of controlling access to a language learning computer facility, the method comprising:

permitting a user to interact with the computer facility through a user computer, the user interaction comprising language learning responses submitted to the computer facility through the user computer;

performing a user authentication process to determine if the permitted user interaction is authorized; and

determining whether the permitted user interaction should be continued, if the user is determined not to be authorized;

wherein the user authentication process is performed with user authentication information that is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and also with user authentication information extracted from the user's language learning responses;

wherein the permitted user interaction includes receiving user speaker verification information that is obtained from the user in response to language learning requests from the computer facility and further including:

analyzing the speaker verification information to verify that the user is a recognized speaker; and

wherein the determination of whether user interaction should be continued is performed a predetermined time after the user begins interaction with the computer facility.



40. (new) A computer apparatus at a server node of a network, controlling access to a computer facility of the network, the computer apparatus comprising:

a network communication interface that permits communication with a user at a client node of the network; and

a Speaker Recognition processor that permits the user to interact with the computer facility through a computer node of the network, wherein the user interaction comprises language learning responses submitted to the computer facility through the computer node, further that the Speaker Recognition processor performs a user authentication process to determine if the permitted user interaction is authorized and determines whether the permitted user interaction should be continued, if the user is determined not to be authorized; and wherein the user authentication process is performed with user authentication information that is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and also with user authentication information that is extracted from the user's language learning responses;

wherein the Speaker Recognition processor receives speaker verification information from the user in response to language learning requests and analyzes the speaker verification information to verify that the user is a recognized speaker; and

wherein the Speaker Recognition processor performs the determination of whether user interaction should be continued at a predetermined time after the user begins interaction with the computer facility.

41. (new) A method of controlling computer access to a language learning computer facility, the method comprising:

permitting a user to interact with the computer facility through a user computer, the user interaction comprising language learning responses submitted to the computer facility through the user computer;

authenticating the user if user authentication information is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and extracted from the user's

language learning responses, and if a proper identification code is received from a user-authorizing code generator of a microphone apparatus that communicates with the user computer and through which the user provides speech input; and  
permitting continued interaction only if the user is authenticated.

42. (new) A method as defined in claim 41, wherein the microphone apparatus communicates with the user computer through a USB connection.

43. (new) A method as defined in claim 41, further including:  
verifying that the user is an authorized speaker by analyzing user spoken verification information that is obtained from the user in response to spoken language learning requests from the computer facility.

44. (new) A method as defined in claim 41, further including:  
verifying that the user is an authorized speaker by analyzing user spoken language skills performance that is obtained from the user during the language learning user interaction.

45. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein the microphone apparatus includes a user switch that initiates generation of the code output from the code generator.

46. (new) A computer apparatus at a server node of a network, controlling access to a computer facility of the network, the computer apparatus comprising:  
a network communication interface that permits communication with a user at a computer node of the network; and  
a Speaker Recognition processor that permits the user to interact with the computer facility through the computer node, wherein the user interaction comprises

language learning responses submitted to the computer facility by the user through the computer node, further that the Speaker Recognition processor performs a user authentication process to determine if user authentication information is obtained by the computer facility during the permitted user interaction and extracted from the user's language learning responses, and if a proper identification code is received from a user-authorizing code generator of a microphone apparatus that communicates with the user computer and through which the user provides speech input, and permits continued user interaction only if the user is authenticated.

47. (new) A computer apparatus as defined in claim 46, wherein the Speaker Recognition processor verifies that the user is an authorized speaker by analyzing user spoken verification information that is obtained from the user in response to spoken language learning requests from the computer facility .

48 (new) A computer apparatus as defined in claim 46, wherein the Speaker Recognition processor verifies that the user is an authorized speaker by analyzing user spoken language skills performance that is obtained from the user during the language learning user interaction.

49 (new) A computer apparatus as defined in claim 46, wherein the Speaker Recognition processor provides the user with limited access through the computer node to a predetermined number of language learning data modules of spoken language instruction at the computer facility.

50. (new) A computer apparatus as defined in claim 49, wherein the Speaker Recognition processor further receives a user request from the local computer for access to additional language learning date modules of the spoken language instruction, wherein the user request includes a payment authorization for the additional modules, and permits

the requesting user to have access to the paid-for additional modules of the spoken language instruction program.